conduit pipeline to said satellite assembly, with said gas flow in said gas delivery system being free of a heat exchanger member driven by a thermal machine and without substantially disturbing the flow of gas through said delivery conduit pipeline to each customer, with said satellite assembly having a capacity of between about 1 to 10 megawatts to generate power without combustion.

10. (Fifth Amendment) A satellite assembly for generating electrical power without the combustion of gas and structurally associated with a gas distribution network having a first pipeline reservoir of gas at a pressure greater than the gas within a second conduit delivery pipeline which delivers the gas to a customer, said satellite assembly utilizing a portion of said gas flowing through said second conduit delivery pipeline, with said second conduit delivery pipeline being free of a heat exchanger member driven by a thermal machine, by directing a portion of the gas flow passing through said second conduit delivery [conduit] pipeline through said satellite assembly comprised of an expander, a shaft, an electrical generator having a capacity of between about 1 to 10 megawatts operatively associated with said shaft which produces electrical power as a result of directing a [the] portion of gas flowing from said second delivery conduit pipeline through said expander without the combustion of gas, and control means for operating said satellite assembly.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 to improve the form of the claims and to clearly distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 10-12 and 15-16 as now presented in this continuation application are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite a method of generating power utilizing a

gas distribution network and claim 10 recites the structure of a novel satellite assembly for generating power in accordance with the present invention. The method of generating power utilizes a satellite assembly to generate power without the combustion of gas during such generation. The gas distribution network is comprised of a gas reservoir delivery system and a delivery conduit pipeline to each customer. The gas reservoir is at a pressure greater than the pressure in the delivery conduit pipeline. The method of generating power includes the step of directing a portion of the gas passing through the gas delivery conduit pipeline, which is free of a heat exchange member driven by a thermal machine, and without disturbing the flow of gas, to and through the satellite assembly to generate power. This has not been denied by the Examiner. Simply there is no teaching whatsoever of the utilization of gas flow in the gas delivery conduit pipeline to generate power in the Examiner's cited art. In the present invention, the satellite assembly generates power based upon the flow of gas through the gas delivery conduit pipeline to the expander without combustion. The satellite assembly has a capacity of between about 1 to 10 megawatts.

This unique and novel method and apparatus for generating power in accordance with the present invention provides an extremely economical method and apparatus for generating power by utilizing a portion of the flow of gas passing through the delivery conduit pipeline to each customer to generate power by operating a satellite assembly with the absence of combustion.

The Examiner has rejected the claims as being unpatentable over Grennan U.S. Patent 5,634,340. Applicant incorporates each and all of the arguments previously presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed January 7, 2000 and in the Amendment filed July 20, 2000, in

distinguishing the present invention from the prior art. Additionally, the following arguments clearly distinguish the claimed method and apparatus from the '340 prior art patent.

Grennan's '340 invention is directed to a process for the co-generation of power which is comprised of compressing a gas during off-peak electricity utilization and the generation of electrical power during peak-electricity utilization. Importantly, Grennan discloses that his scheme and apparatus utilizes the operation of a compression train to compress the gas during off-peak electrical utilization and the operation of an expansion train to combust and generate electricity during peak-electricity utilization. Expansion and compressor trains are a series of expanders and compressors which together must be operated by and driven to compress during off-peak hours and to generate during peak-electrical utilization. Thus, Grennan necessarily requires the use of motors or generators (66 or 166) which are coupled to the expansion train by a shaft to generate electricity (See Col. 4,ll 29-34; Col. 4, ll 57-63; Col. 7, ll 31-32). Accordingly, Grennan is utilizing a system for generating electrical power which is a system which requires a motor and which requires combustion, a system that is totally antithetical to the present claimed invention. Indeed, Col. 4, ll 13-16 clearly teaches that "combustion" is carried out to increase the temperature of the fluid and to somehow increase the power output. Specifically, Grennan does not disclose or teach a method of generating power or a satellite assembly which requires the direct utilization of a portion of the gas flowing through the gas delivery conduit pipeline to a customer. Instead, Grennan's co-generation scheme teaches and utilizes only the flow of gas between his high pressure and the low pressure systems, not the diversion of a portion of gas that is flowing through the low pressure gas delivery conduit pipeline to each customer, as is required by applicant's invention.

Thus, it is not seen how Grennan's invention remotely suggests or renders obvious the specific claimed method and apparatus of applicant's claim 1 and 10, and, accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 10-12 and 15-16 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT M. LUNDBERG

By: Paul L Brown 27,184
Paul L. Brown, Reg. No. 27,184

Emrich & Dithmar
300 South Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Phone: 312-663-9800

Dated: January 10, 2001